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## PM: Golan is not negotiable

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The Golan Heights must remain in Israel's hands because of its strategic, historic and economic importance, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a French newspaper.

The future of Jerusalem, too, "will never be negotiated," the Paris daily *Le Figaro* quoted Netanyahu as saying in an interview published yesterday.

But Netanyahu also said he could envision a Palestinian state, provided the term "state" is carefully defined to protect Israeli interests and security.

"We neither want to govern them nor interfere with their existence," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "But we desire to not find ourselves in a position that threatens our lives and our future."

Asked whether the future of the Golan Heights is negotiable, Netanyahu replied: "Absolutely not. We have to keep the Golan for strategic, historic and economic reasons."

"Why should we abandon our water resources? We can live without petroleum, but we can't deprive ourselves of water," Netanyahu said.

In Damascus yesterday, a Syrian official reiterated Damascus's demand that Israel accept the principle of withdrawing from the Golan Heights before talks resume between the two countries.

"The talks will not resume until the current Israeli government accepts the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the pre-war June 4, 1967, border lines," one official told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam returned home from Cairo after talks with Egyptian leaders on how to boost Arab solidarity, officials said. Khaddam was accompanied by Foreign Minister Farouk Shara.

Syrian officials said that Khaddam, who met President Hosni Mubarak during the visit, "discussed the situation and means of reaching joint Arab action."

Damascus state-run radio, in an implicit reference to the Hebron deal, said that by signing the deal Netanyahu was trying to delude the world and show that he is a man of peace.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he expects the peace negotiations with Syria to resume shortly, now that the Hebron redeployment has been carried out.

"I hope that within a very short time we will have a new situation where the leader of Syria and the leader of Israel can sit together, discuss the subject and find a solution for the problem," Mordechai said.

Speaking to reporters while monitoring the first day of IDF redeployment in Hebron, Mordechai said Israel was interested in returning to the negotiating table.

"Every day we are asking President [Hafez] Assad and the government of Syria to come forward to continue the negotiations and to find a solution for the problem between Israel and Syria," Mordechai said.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on Netanyahu on Friday to test Syria's willingness to make peace.

In a farewell interview, Christopher said Netanyahu's agreement with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to withdraw Israeli troops on the West Bank could prompt an

## US tracking Syrian Scuds

US Navy intelligence has detected a number of Scud missile launches by the Syrians recently, raising concerns that the testing program could lead to the use of chemical warheads, according to a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

The London-based weekly said the launches were picked up by US Navy cruisers with special radar equipment.

Syria has some 62 Scud missile launchers and an estimated 200-300 Scud missiles in its arsenal, according to the *Middle East Military Balance* published by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Arieh O'Sullivan

accord with Syria.

"He's crossed an important threshold," Christopher said.

He compared Netanyahu's dealings with Arafat to a similar transformation by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, who cut two deals with Arafat and shook hands with him on the White House lawn.

Christopher complimented Netanyahu for dealing with Arafat. "The prime minister has recognized a need for pragmatism in the situation," Christopher said.

On all fronts, he said, "there is no doubt this will improve the relationship between Israel and the rest of the Arab world."

Arab countries will be encouraged by Netanyahu's acceptance of a road map for a pullback in Hebron and elsewhere on the West Bank, Christopher said.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to visit Hebron this morning and address the townspeople from the former IDF military headquarters.

According to Palestinian security sources, Arafat will arrive around noon by helicopter and will leave in the evening.

Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, said the Palestinian security forces are prepared for Arafat's visit to Hebron and are in control of the situation.

"The settlers will not dare to harm a Palestinian while we are here," Rajoub said.

Settler spokesman Noam Arnon said the Jewish community in Hebron is not planning any demonstration to coincide with Arafat's expected visit to the city. "Arafat's presence in Hebron is the government's problem, not ours," Arnon said.

Crowds gathered at the Imara (military headquarters), now the headquarters of the Palestinian Police, which was decorated with a Palestinian banner, and also at a high school to hear Rajoub, who may move his headquarters to the town.

He warned the opposition - Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which together are stronger than Arafat's Fatah faction is in Hebron - that "they are free to oppose, but must observe the rules of democracy."

Then he turned to the settlers, saying, "Part of our city is still

Ross: Israel to determine redeployment lines, Page 2

wounded, is still under occupation and there are 400 settlers in our heart in Hebron. We tell them sincerely that their place is not with us."

"They are big stones on our chest, so we have to take them off!" he said to wild cheers and applause from the crowd.

"Today we are celebrating the liberation of most of Hebron," said Transportation Minister Ali Kawasmi, according to AP. "But another part is still under occupation. So we will struggle, both the government and the people, in order to liberate the rest of Hebron."

Arnon described Rajoub's words as "incitement" and called on the government to arrest Rajoub.

"Jibril Rajoub called for the expulsion of the Jews," Hebron spokesman David Wilder said, citing an Israel Radio report. "This is tantamount to incitement to murder. It is not unexpected, but it is very distressing."

Arnon noted that section 7 of the protocol on Hebron states, "Both sides reiterate their commitment to maintain normal life throughout the city of Hebron and to prevent any provocation or friction which may affect the normal life in the city." Rajoub's statements, Arnon said, are a flagrant violation of this clause.

"This gives us an indication of

Continued on Page 2

## Arafat due to arrive in Hebron today



An elderly Palestinian couple dances during a celebration in Hebron yesterday in honor of the newly deployed Palestinian police. (AP)

## Hebron redeployment, Day 1

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

It didn't take long for the redeployment to be tested. At noon on Friday, just six hours after the IDF's Hebron brigade commander, Col. Gadi, handed over command of the military headquarters to his Palestinian counterpart, the IDF clamped a curfew on the casbah and dispersed Palestinians throwing stones and other objects at Israeli forces after a scuffle erupted.

The protest moved to an alley behind Beit Hadassah on the border between Palestinian and Israeli controlled parts of the city. About 100 Hamas supporters hurled stones and firecrackers at IDF soldiers. The soldiers reportedly consulted with the Palestinian Police, who detained a number of the youths.

Shortly before the incidents, Col. Gadi was explaining to foreign reporters why the transfer

had gone over so smoothly.

"Redeployment is a very long process," Col. Gadi said. "We want to start on the right foot and there is a mutual interest to keep this city quiet."

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said the true test of redeployment was not to be judged by immediate events.

"The true test is what will happen from today onward and how the Israelis and Palestinians will live in the future. We have a long future to live together here," he said.

"Just a few hundred meters from here Palestinians are in complete control. We hope and expect this responsibility will be kept," Shahak said while visiting the city on Friday.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also showed up by mid-morning to supervise the redeployment.

"We are not naive [enough] to think that there won't be any problems. There will be, but the military [forces] deployed here have all the capabilities to deal with any problems so that in the end we will be able to ensure that the Jewish community here will be able to thrive," Mordechai said.

Competing with the call of the muezzin to Moslem prayers, Mordechai praised the American diplomats who helped seal the Hebron deal, as well as Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein.

A Palestinian reporter shouted out, "You don't thank Yasser Arafat?"

"Yeah, everybody, including Yasser Arafat too," Mordechai responded.

In the area known as H-1, which is still under

Continued on Page 2

## Saddam blasts Israel, US

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein marked the sixth anniversary on Friday of the start of the Gulf War with a tirade against the United States and Israel.

In a speech broadcast on Iraqi radio and television, Saddam, dressed in military uniform, likened the allied forces and Israel to the "front of Satans."

Then US president George Bush was "the leader of the group of vice and aggression," Saddam said.

Official newspapers praised the

"mother of battles" and state radio and television broadcast national songs and boasted of Iraq's Scud attacks on Israel during the war.

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# Ross: Israel will decide extent of redeployments

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross affirmed Friday that Israel alone will determine the extent of its three redeployments over the next year and a half. At the same time, he indicated that those moves could serve to build confidence between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as they head into final-status negotiations on their ultimate borders. "The issue of further redeployment, under the terms of the interim agreement, is an Israeli responsibility," Ross told reporters in his first public comments since returning from brokering Wednesday's Hebron agreement. The third redeployment, no later than mid-1998, is meant to allow for a "time frame that is sufficiently far in advance of the end of the interim period" that it allows final-status talks

to "take into account the results of the further redeployment," he said. "Borders and further redeployment are not necessarily synonymous," Ross said. "Our focus has been ... creating the time frame so that you can have a level of confidence that the permanent status talks can be discussed in a context where the further redeployment has taken place." The statements appear to reinforce Israel's demand, achieved in the Hebron agreement, that it not be pinned down to specified territorial compromise in advance of final-status talks, while also reassuring the PA that what it receives in the three stages may not be the end of Israeli withdrawals. Ross also emphasized that while the US served as a "mediator" to achieve the Hebron deal and remains ready to assist as needed, the

parties should resume direct talks. "In the long run, it's not the kind of role that we want to be playing," he said. "We will stay heavily involved, we will do whatever is required in this process, but it will always be most important for the parties themselves to be able to identify the problems and solve them themselves." The Hebron agreement "creates a new baseline for them in terms of being able to work together, and the more they can work together, the better it's going to be for everybody." He also stated that the US was not keeping secret Secretary of State Warren Christopher's side letter to PA chairman Yasser Arafat, but that it is maintaining its policy of not releasing such letters. The PA has decided to keep the letter private, but in any case, Israel was briefed on its contents, he said.

# Sharon calls for national unity in advance of final status talks

By SARAH HONIG

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon renewed his call over the weekend for a national unity government. Sharon has been advocating a broad coalition for several months and has been holding regular meetings with Labor leader Shimon Peres, who is the one most keenly interested in a coalition partnership with the Likud. Around Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, Sharon's latest pronouncement was doused with cold water. In the Likud it is argued that Sharon's remarks stem from his increasing frustration inside the government, including not being consulted about the Hebron agreement. Speaking on Channel 1 and 2 weekend newsreels, Sharon said "a broad coalition could prevent a situation in which essentially one man decides. It doesn't matter who the man is. It's nothing personal." Sharon argued that "it would be highly desirable, if possible, to reach a broad national consensus in

which, admittedly, no side would be able to realize all of its objectives. The problems ahead are even more difficult and complex than what we have just come through." Sharon was apparently hinting at the scheduled mid-March beginning of the permanent status talks, where presumably the government would have an easier time resisting excessive Arab demands if it could count on broad support. Sharon expressed the hope that he "would take a greater part in the coming negotiations. I had not been made party to the policy-making thus far and I feel that had I been part of the team we could have come up with a far better deal, with greater security for Hebron's Jews. I am convinced that Jews must be in Hebron or there would be no access to the Machpela Cave, to the ancient cemeteries and to other Jewish holy sites." He disliked the fact that "there was glee and gloating among a section of Israeli public opinion when the Hebron pullback was carried out. It is OK to hold different opinions but there is no justifi-

cation for Jews to exult when they relinquish so central a spot in their homeland and national heritage. There is something masochistic and sick in the rejoicing over an event that should inspire sorrow in Jewish hearts, regardless of whatever politics one subscribes to." Netanyahu's senior adviser David Bar-Ilan said last night that "while national consensus is necessary and even to a large extent exists on the basic issues of the permanent settlement, there is no need to cement that consensus in a broad coalition." In Labor, opinions are split about the likelihood of a national unity coalition. All sides agree that the initiative must come from Netanyahu, but some say that the fact he has safely surmounted the Hebron hurdle makes the national unity option far less likely. Others in Labor point to the March start of the final status deliberations as the date on which Netanyahu might appeal to Labor to join his government, so he may head the broadest possible coalition against Arab and international pressure.



**Visions of the future**  
Jamal Aitzem Battash, an 11-year-old Hebron boy, tries out advanced ophthalmological equipment under the guidance of Prof. Shaul Merin, a senior ophthalmologist, at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Karem on Friday. Battash was recently interviewed on Channel 1 and said he wanted to become an eye doctor. Hadassah managed to locate him with the help of the civil administration and set up the tour. (Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Avi Haysom)

# Beit Sahur man dies in Bethlehem prison

Autopsy reveals possible torture

By JON IMBAUEL

A Beit Sahur man who had been held in Bethlehem jail for a year on suspicion of murder died there Friday, and an autopsy indicated that he may have been tortured. He was the eleventh man to die in a Palestinian prison since self-rule began in May 1994. Faysal Qumsiyeh, 53, a driver, married with six children, was arrested in February last year to investigate suspicions against him concerning the death of a Beit Sahur boy, Bassam Raishmawi, in 1981. Because 15 years had passed he

could not be tried due to the statute of limitations, said Bassam Eid of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. However prison authorities said he confessed to involvement in the murder and was only kept in jail to protect him against possible revenge by the boy's family. Qumsiyeh had been a member of the Village Leagues, a group of rural mukhtars encouraged by the Civil Administration as an alternative to the PLO. Members were considered by many Palestinians to be collaborators. The autopsy was conducted by

four doctors, two appointed by the Palestinian Authority and two by the family, after Qumsiyeh was brought to Al-Husseini Hospital in Beit Jalla already dead. An X-ray revealed that he had a broken left hand. His wife said she had seen him a few hours before his death and he had looked like he was in good condition. However, his family said he also had suffered from heart problems for two years, and had received medical attention during that time. Autopsy findings were transferred to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute for further examination.

# Merom supports Barak for Labor leadership

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Haggai Merom (Labor) announced yesterday that he supports MK Ehud Barak in the contest for the Labor leadership and to be the party's candidate for prime minister. Speaking on Channel 1's *Shabbat Game*, Merom said he reached this decision after serious consideration, during which he fluctuated between supporting Barak or MK Yossi Beilin. Both Merom and Beilin are members of "The Eight" - a group of dovish MKs which formed around MK Haim Ramon several years ago. Merom said he had a problem deciding "between my heart and my head. In the end I went with my head, which says Barak is the best candidate Labor can present in order to win in the year 2000. My heart is with Beilin, a personal and political friend."

He said his decision to support Barak will not lead to the break-down of "The Eight." Merom recounted that he and Ramon once had a similar dilemma in deciding between Shimon Peres or Yitzhak Rabin for the party's leadership and although both had "grown in Peres's flower bed, we transferred our allegiance to Rabin for this reason [that he had the best chance of beating the Likud in the 1992 Knesset elections]." Merom said he is conducting talks with three or four Likud MKs "who state explicitly that they have no problem with withdrawing from the entire Golan as part of a peace process with Syria." He noted that the talks were not in an official capacity, like those led by Beilin and MK Michael Eitan (Likud). Ramon, who appeared in the same program, predicted an ideological earthquake which will lead to a political earthquake, in the wake of the Oslo agreement, "providing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu keeps the agreement and doesn't try to evade it." Ramon said that the historic confrontation between the two major ideological streams - the Labor and Revisionist movements - has ended now that a Revisionist prime minister has signed the agreement for the evacuation of Hebron and other parts of Eretz Yisrael. Ramon said that Merom was making a mistake in supporting Barak at this stage, "because his decision is based on a wrong assumption. Nobody knows what Israeli politics will look like in the year 2000, what Labor's structure will be then and who will be its candidate." He added that if Barak is still the leading candidate in 1999, then he too would support him.

# ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

where things are headed," Arnon said. "They [the Palestinians] just received 85% of Hebron, now they are fighting for the other 15%. I call upon the government to do everything it can to prevent the hell that will be created here." Arnon said that although he was not surprised by Rajoub's comments, he was taken aback by the fact that "he revealed his true self already on the first day." The PA and Israel formally signed the Hebron deal on Friday in Jerusalem, with Saeb Erekat and Dan Shomron signing for the two sides. In Hebron, scouts marched through several streets in H-1 as celebrations marking the IDF's redeployment got into full swing. The IDF allowed girl scouts to parade through Shuhada Street in H-2 on their way to the main march in another part of town. Shuhada Street, where many settlers live, is under IDF security control, but the municipality has a \$1 million plan to restore services to the street and renovate buildings to attract Arabs back to it. Tension between settlers and Arabs remained high. The crowds who flocked to the casbah and Avraham Avinu area on Friday were absent yesterday, after the IDF closed the area to trade and groups of more than 10 because a Palestinian threw stones and apple cores at soldiers while the crowds choked the area. The casbah, which only was

recently reopened, remained closed until today and settlers were able to walk the 200 yards from the Machpela Cave to Avraham Avinu without encountering crowds of Palestinians shopping, as they were yesterday. As they have done on Shabbatot in the past, the settlers danced in front of the tomb and all the way to Avraham Avinu. Reuter photographer Mazen Dana lodged a complaint with Israeli police after a settler hit him with the butt of a rifle and broke his finger. Three hours after the town was officially handed over to the PA at 6 a.m. on Friday, Palestinian traffic police in blue uniforms were busy directing cars at Glass Square, the scene of several deadly attacks on settlers in the past. The banner headline of *Hayat al-Jadida*, the newspaper closest to the PA said "Hebron Liberated" in red, but added that there was no visible excitement. Some said this is because Arafat always has had less support in Hebron than in other Palestinian towns and Fatah is less organized there, others because the IDF redeployment is only partial, because it was Ramadan and because the Hebron talks have left everyone exhausted. Downtown it was difficult to go

far without encountering an Israeli checkpoint, sometimes in the middle of a market, and even the soldiers did not know where the exact borders of H-1 and H-2 were. Palestinians however, avoided them, and in some cases, such as the area between the market and Beit Romano, they were not allowed to cross the checkpoints. "I live in H-1 and also have a home in H-2. I don't like this, it will be like Berlin was," Tawfiq Fawzi said. "They have given me my body but they have stolen my heart. My heart is in the holy places. There are so many settlers with guns, so many soldiers." A young policeman came and pushed the crowd near the casbah. "Shove off from here," he said in Hebrew slang. "They just make us nervous for no reason," Fawzi said. "We would like to forget the past and all the problems, open a new page, but it is difficult to live with these settlers unless they can live as equals," merchant Assam Bidu said. *Lamia Lahoud contributed to this report.*

# Apology

Moshe Arens resigned as chairman of Zim and was not a "casualty" of Zim's reorganization program as reported Friday. We apologize for the error.

# DAY 1

Continued from Page 1

IDF control, tensions were high. On Shuhada Street, known to the Jewish residents of Hebron as King David Street, a group of Palestinian teenagers swaggered by about a half dozen Jewish yeshiva students, taunting and insulting them as they passed. "I swear the next one who says something to me will receive a slap in the face from me," one of the students said. Yesterday IDF forces and police continued to patrol the streets, and closed off the downtown to Palestinian traffic, causing large traffic jams across the city. The redeployment was a low-key informal affair, catching the city with the first rays of sun at 6:10 Friday. During the night, IDF troops trickled out of the military headquarters so that by dawn only a small contingent of border policemen and the IDF Hebron Brigade commander remained. Col. Gadi shook hands with Col. Awmi Natche, the Palestinian commander of the city, and the two jumped into their jeeps and drove off down the narrow road. Shortly later, Palestinian forces in dark-blue uniforms virtually charged into the compound and as word spread jubilant local residents, some in pajamas, began pouring into the former IDF base. Busloads of Palestinian police-

men later arrived flashing the "V" sign as fireworks, Roman candles and skyrocket cracked in the morning sky. A man stammered up the large antenna, practically the only piece of equipment the IDF left behind, and unfurled the Palestinian flag as the crowd below shouted "Allahu Akbar." One elderly man cried with disbelief as Palestinian Police marched toward the fortress. "This is the happiest day of my life. I have waited for 30 years to witness this moment," he screamed before collapsing into their arms. For Col. Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security Service, taking control of the headquarters was particularly moving. "I was detained here for five times as a prisoner. This is the first time I enter as a free man," Rajoub said. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uri Dayan said joint patrols were moving ahead as scheduled, but making the redeployment agreement work was not going to be easy. "This is not an easy place from the security point of view. There are a lot of potential threats, but this is our mission - to provide security for the people living in this city," Dayan said.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our dear **EDITH RIP** née Adlerstein The funeral will take place today, Sunday, January 19, 1997, at 2 p.m., at the Ramat Hasharon cemetery (Morasha Junction). Families: Adlerstein, Munster, Ascher

Our dearly beloved **LUTZ HAMMERSCHLAG** passed away on January 18, 1997. Deeply mourned and never to be forgotten by his heartbroken family. We love him so much. The funeral will take place at Ra'anana Cemetery. For details phone: 09-771-4765. Son: Robert and wife Marcy Daughter: Shirley Son: Mark and wife Lynne Son: Lennard Grandchildren: Lauren, Neal, Gabrielle and Steven

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# Pakistan bomb kills 25

By TAIMUR HASSAN

LAHORE (AP) — A massive bomb exploded outside the Lahore Sessions Court yesterday killing 25 people, wounding 100 more and leaving police fearing the outbreak of bitter sectarian fighting.

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, several of the dead and wounded were senior leaders of a militant Sunni Moslem group known as Sipah-e-Sahabah or Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet.

One person was arrested apparently fleeing the scene, the police said. But the suspect has not been identified, nor is it known whether he was picked up because he was behaving suspiciously or if he is linked to militant Shiite groups that may have been involved.

Bomb experts at the scene said that at least five kilograms of explosive material was used,

although it wasn't known what type of material it was.

Among the dead was Zia-ur Rehman, a senior leader of the Friends of the Guardians of the Prophet.

Another leader Azim Tariq was seriously wounded. Tariq also is a candidate for the National Assembly in elections being held next month.

Police has stepped up security at Shiite mosques around the country. In areas of large Shiite populations, like Jhang about 200 km southwest of Lahore, a curfew was being considered, police said.

An ambulance driver, Fayaz Ahmed, said ambulances took 15 bodies away from the court and at least 10 other bodies were removed by police and passersby. Many of the wounded were very serious, he said.

"There was smoke everywhere and everywhere there was blood and bodies," he said.

Initially police believed the bomb was planted in a car, but officials said it was actually planted in a motorcycle and exploded shortly after noon local time when the area was its most congested.

Most of the dead and wounded were policemen, who either were waiting to testify, or who were guarding Tariq and Rehman.

A newspaper photographer and reporter also were among the dead. Six other photographers were wounded in the explosion.

According to witnesses both Tariq and Rehman had stepped out of a police van and their supporters were showering them with rose pedals when the bomb exploded.

The explosion brought several calls for the interim government both in the Punjab province and in Islamabad to resign. The governments were appointed last November when Benazir Bhutto's administration was sacked.



Passersby look at wrecked motorcycles after a powerful car bomb exploded outside the Lahore Sessions Court in eastern Pakistan yesterday, killing 25 people and wounding 100 more. (AP)

## UN envoy urges Milosevic to give in

From Post news agencies

BELGRADE — A UN human rights envoy urged President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday to concede opposition election victories, while thousands of students outlasted police and marched through the capital at dawn.

"The will of the people must be respected," envoy Elizabeth Rehn told reporters after meeting with opposition leaders and government representatives to discuss the nearly nine-week political crisis that is convulsing Serbia.

Meanwhile, former Bosnian Serb vice-president Nikola Koljevic shot himself in the head in a suicide attempt and was in a "critical condition" at a Belgrade hospital, officials said.

Rehn, the UN human rights investigator for the former Yugoslavia, said the Milosevic regime must "accept free and fair election results." The Serbian leader annulled the results in the capital, Belgrade, and 13 other towns.

The government has sought to portray the opposition and students who have held separate anti-Milosevic protests in a bad light, accusing them of being plants of foreign powers trying to destabilize Yugoslavia.

Opposition leader Zoran Djindjic told reporters that Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic — who like other Yugoslav officials is loyal to Milosevic — claimed in a meeting with Rehn that the students were being paid for their protests, Rehn

listened to Djindjic's allegations without comment.

Late Friday, dozens of judges joined thousands of students in a public protest against Milosevic. The judges, from local and district courts in Belgrade, waved copies of the constitution at riot police who prevented the students from marching — an allusion to the freedom of assembly guaranteed by the constitution.

As in past days, the students outlasted the police. After an all-night vigil, the officers pulled back at dawn yesterday, and thousands of students who stayed on marched through downtown.

Milosevic showed no signs of conceding his Socialist party's losses in Belgrade.

Former Bosnian Serb vice-president Koljevic, 60, a Shakespeare scholar and former Sarajevo university professor, was in a coma after "a tragic self-inflicted wound," a statement issued by Dragan Kalinic, speaker of the Bosnian Serb republic's assembly in the town of Pale, said.

Hospital doctors had taken all possible measures "to improve the patient's condition and maintain his vital functions," Kalinic's statement said.

Political sources said Koljevic shot himself on Thursday night in his office in Pale, a mountain village near Sarajevo.

He was evacuated by helicopter on Friday to Belgrade, capital of neighboring Serbia, in a French helicopter provided by the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

## Britain's first war crimes trial collapses

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain vowed yesterday to pursue suspected World War II murderers, despite the collapse before it even began of the country's first war crimes trial.

A jury on Friday ruled that Szymon Serafinowicz, accused of taking part in the Nazi program to exterminate the Jews of Byelorussia in 1941 and 42, was not mentally fit to stand trial. Doctors told a pre-trial hearing Serafinowicz was suffering from dementia, probably caused by Alzheimer's disease, but the prosecution said they believed he was faking his symptoms.

Serafinowicz, 86, a former commander of police in Nazi-occupied Byelorussia (now Belarus), will now never stand trial for killing Jews, although he has not formally been acquitted. He came to Britain after the war and worked as a carpenter until he was 70.

Despite the failure of what was thought to be the best case uncovered by a special police war crimes unit set up in 1991, Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said it was still considering bringing five cases to court.

The BBC said the suspects were three from Byelorussia, one from Georgia, and a Czech accused of being a guard at Mauthausen concentration camp, in Austria.

The first of these to be charged, according to the BBC, will be a Byelorussian in his early 70s who is suspected of being involved in the massacre of 3,000 Jews at a village near the Polish border.

But the failure of Serafinowicz's case provoked calls for Britain to abandon its efforts to bring suspected war criminals to trial.

Britain has only been able to

investigate war crimes since 1991 when the government forced its controversial War Crimes Act through parliament in the face of staunch opposition from the House of Lords. The war crimes unit has investigated around 375 suspected cases, but in all but seven the suspects have either died or the unit has been unable to find enough evidence against them.

It has spent around 15 million pounds in its investigations, which have taken its officers around the world. Serafinowicz's case alone is believed to have cost around seven million pounds, including legal expenses.

"Scrap the War Crimes Act," Saturday's Daily Telegraph newspaper urged in an editorial. "Salving one's conscience about undoubted Nazi atrocities is no excuse for persevering with a bad piece of legislation."

Norman Tebbit, a member of the House of Lords, said Friday's court decision confirmed that he had been right to oppose the act in 1991. "Those of us like myself who did not approve of the Bill did so because we envisaged just this sort of thing happening. This seems to me to be a disproportionate amount of effort 50 years later...it should have been done a long time ago."

But a member of the minority Liberal Democrats, whose Polish relatives were killed by Nazis during World War II, said the act remained "legally and morally necessary." "Cases of all kinds collapse from time to time because a defendant is found unfit to be tried by reason of physical or mental incapacity. That is not to say that all elderly people are unfit to be tried," said Alex Carlyle.

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# SUPER-SOL HYPERCO

# Even Socks gets to party for Clinton

By DONNA ABU-NASH

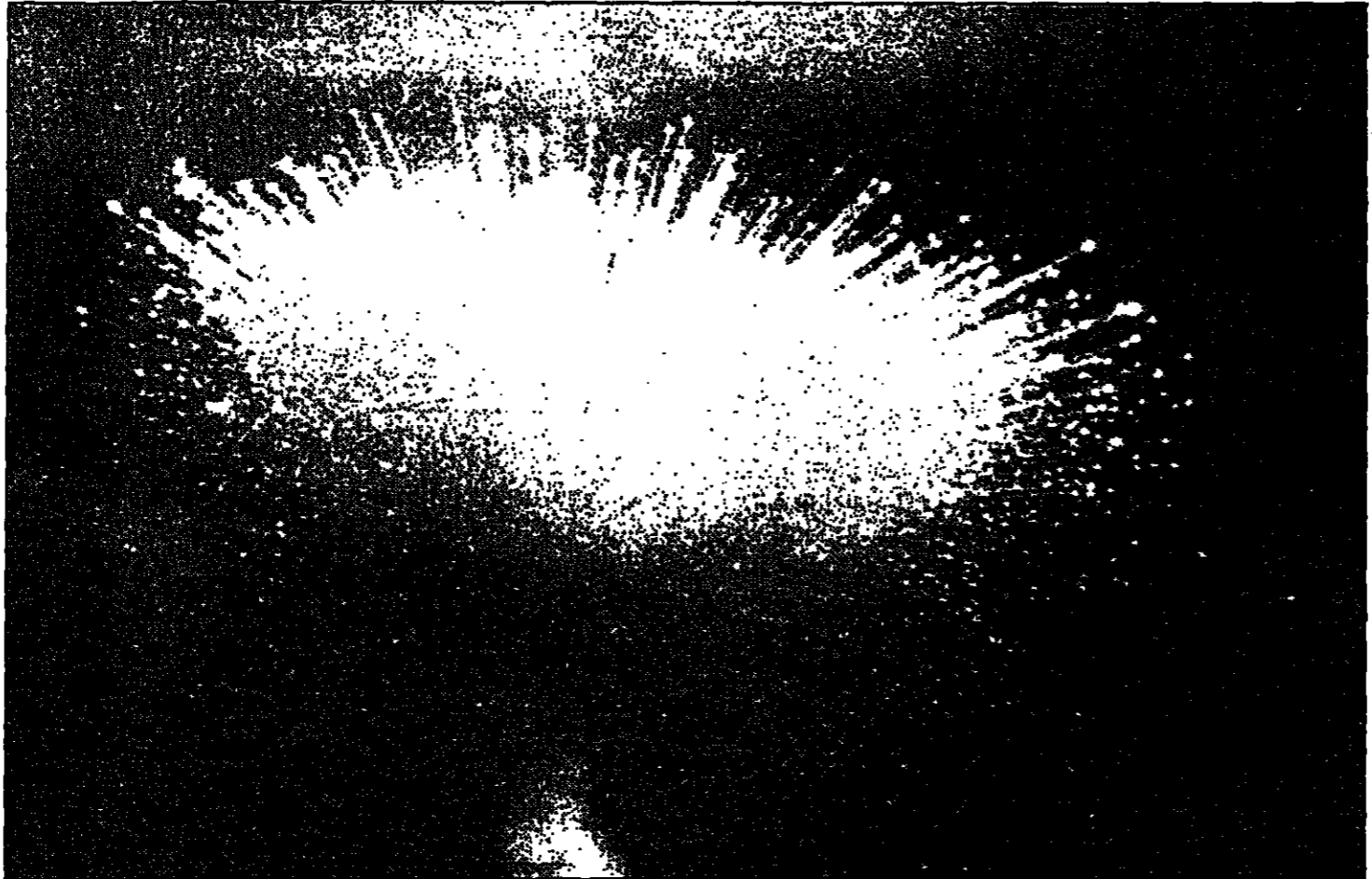
WASHINGTON (AP) — The US capital is launching a weekend of glitzy celebrations of President Bill Clinton's second term that will bring together some of the United States' most glamorous and famous personalities. The celebrations culminate tomorrow in a dizzying whirl of parties that will include 14 official balls and many unofficial ones, catering to all tastes: the snooty, the funky and the arty.

sure he would because he was busy partying. Elsewhere, preparations were under way for a bash by the Texas State Society. Organizers of the "Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball" have ordered 450 kg of shrimp, 450 kg of beef brisket and scads of guacamole, beer and salsa.

inaugural gala, which will feature Mikhail Baryshnikov, Candice Bergen, Aretha Franklin, Whoopi Goldberg and Michael Douglas. Producer Gary Smith said the show will reflect the theme of the gala, "An American Journey." That is why the show is a little bit younger than the 1993 one.

# US Delta rocket explodes on takeoff

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuter) - An unmanned Delta II rocket carrying a \$40 million US Air Force navigational satellite exploded on Friday about 10 seconds after blast off from Cape Canaveral Air Station.



A Delta II rocket carrying a global positioning satellite explodes after liftoff from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Friday, raining debris for miles. About 13 seconds after liftoff, a system designed to detect problems with the rocket triggered its destruction. (Reuters)

# Vranitzky says it was time to quit

VIENNA - Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky resigned yesterday after almost 11 years in power and said he would be succeeded by Finance Minister Viktor Klima. Asked if he had submitted his resignation during a two-hour emergency meeting of senior members of his Social Democratic Party, Vranitzky said: "Of course."

# Peru terrorists ready to restart talks

LIMA - Peruvian Marxist terrorists holding 73 hostages in Lima said yesterday they were ready to start face-to-face talks with the government to reach a negotiated solution to the month-old crisis, local radio said.

# Police widen search in Belgian child sex cases

BRUSSELS (Reuter) - Belgian police expect their widening search for child sex victims to yield up the remains soon of two children who disappeared in 1989

and 1994, a source close to the investigation said yesterday. "We now think that we will find the bodies of Ken (Heyrman) and Elisabeth Brichtet there...possibly even today," the source said of the hunt in the city of Charleroi.

Belgian newspapers said that police searching the mine complex now were working on information they had collected about another pedophile who has been in jail since February.

KUWAIT (Reuter) - An Iraqi opposition group said in remarks published yesterday that a French medical team had removed 10 bullets from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's son Uday but had refused to operate on a bullet still in his spine.

# French team removes 10 bullets from Uday

The team did not explain the reason for declining to operate on Uday but Iraqi doctors said such surgery involved high risk, Jabr added. Jabr, a representative in Damascus for SCIRI, a Moslem group with a Tehran-based leader, said the French medical team had removed 10 bullets from Uday and that he had the beginnings of gangrene in his left leg which might require amputation of the infected part.

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# Norwegian completes first Antarctica solo crossing

SYDNEY (AP) — For 64 days, Boerge Oustland saw little more than white. Endless fields of packed snow, occasionally broken up by peaks and canyons of icy white. Ferociously blowing flakes at times obscured the view of his white horizon.

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ON CAMERA

# The mesmerizing effect of pattern

By DAVID BRAUNER

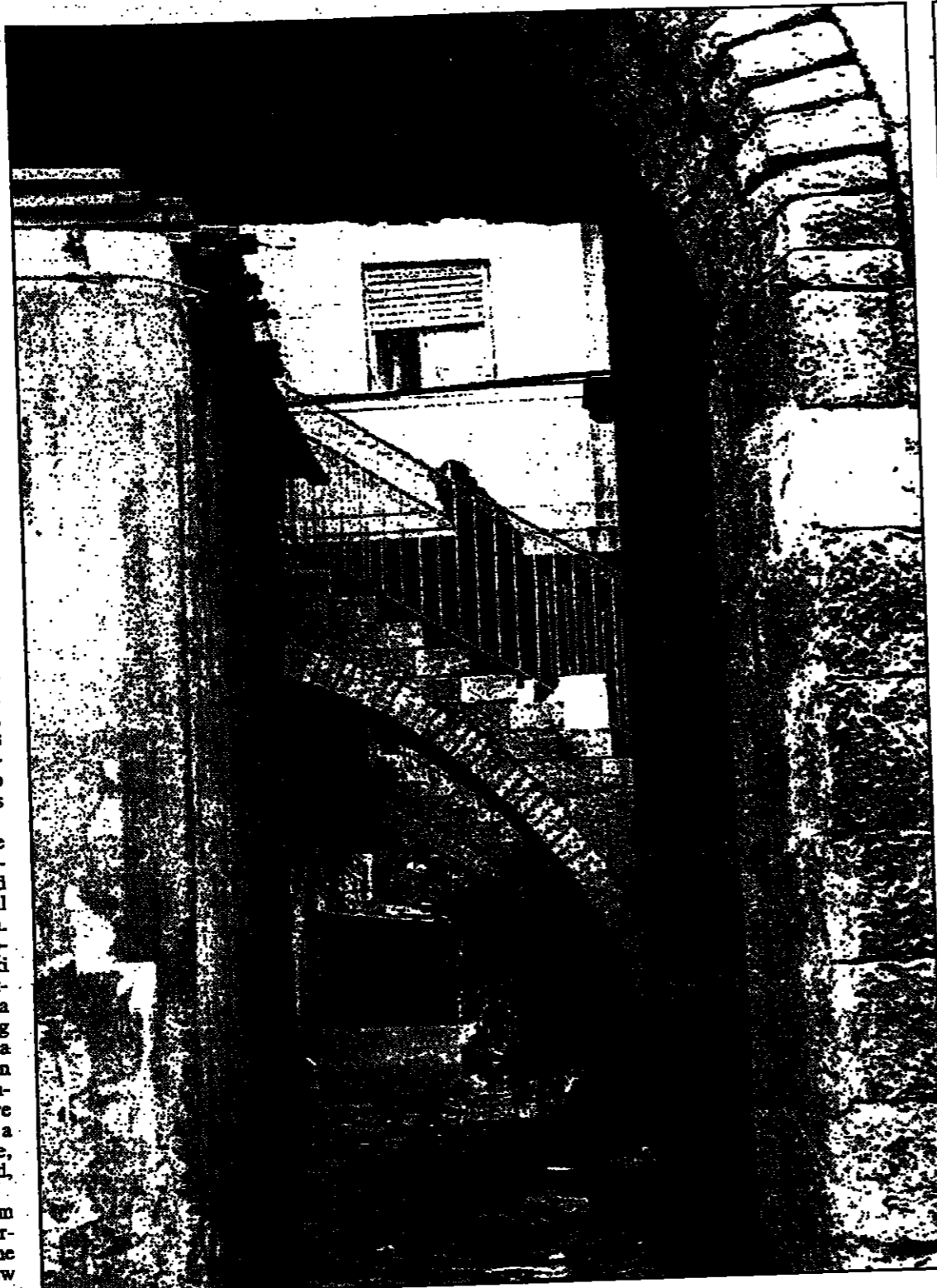
Have you ever found yourself staring at a photograph, perhaps at an exhibition, and wondering why? Pattern may be the answer. Any repetition of line, color or shape forms a pattern. Natural and man-made patterns are all around us. One of the strongest compositional elements in any photograph is pattern. Photographers are drawn to what we call "visual rhythms." The choices a photographer makes in framing a picture often isolate patterns most of us may miss or take for granted.

From the very earliest stages, even without the use of the camera, the pioneers recognized how photography accentuated mesmerizing repetitive qualities in nature. William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-77), credited with the invention of the negative, contacted printed parsley florets to produce a highly intricate silhouette. In the 1920s one of photography's foremost technical perfectionists, Edward Weston (1886-1958), photographed an image he called Shell. The textured lines, curves, shadows and highlights swirl around, mirroring, intersecting and radiating pattern, so that the shell takes on a curious animation.

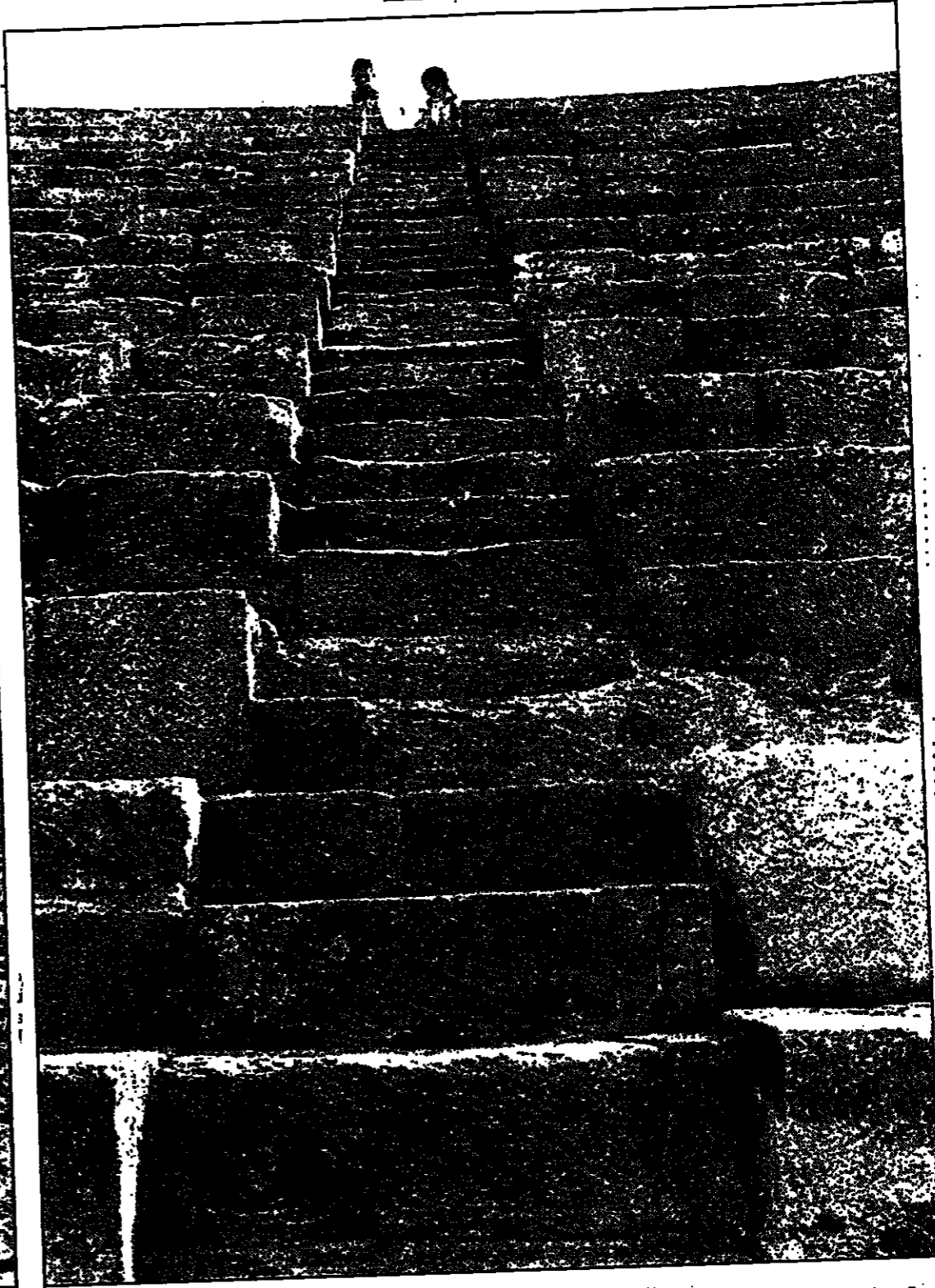
When I recently visited the home of veteran Israeli photographer Werner Braum, he pointed out a curious image on the wall taken by his wife, Anat Rotem. The blow-up began life as a photograph of a cross-country ski race. The throngs of skiers looking like black dots formed a flowing, open "S" shape coming down the white slope. But, in a bit of darkroom wizardry, Braum enhanced the pattern of the composition by turning the negative around so that the "S" became a graceful "X." In the middle, where the two lines intersected, was the densest, blackest part.

In my own photography I am always on the lookout for interesting patterns. The herringbone design of a boardwalk in New York, waves on the water from swans swimming on a quiet stream in Holland, crisscrossing tank tracks in the Negev desert, or cows lined up for milking in a kibbutz dairy are but a few of the patterns that make their way into my pictures. Light and shadow are primary elements of pattern. The long shadows of late afternoon can be particularly attractive. Look for the shadows created by fences and stairs outdoors.

Architecture is a great source of pattern. And these days, with the increased use of glass and



The "visual rhythm" of pattern: Arched stairways photographed through an arch; note the complementing curved back of the person on the stairs; Emphasizing the converging lines of the aisle of an ancient Roman amphitheater; the two figures at the top add a touch of spice to the composition.



The converging lines of the aisle of an ancient Roman amphitheater; the two figures at the top add a touch of spice to the composition. (David Brauner)

other reflective materials, the photographer only has to open his/her eyes to the opportunities presented by the parallel and intersecting lines, planes, and textures of modern construction. Similarly, archeological ruins can be an interesting challenge to "pattern-driven" photography. On a recent visit to an ancient Roman amphitheater, I got down

on my knees in order to emphasize the converging lines of the aisle through foreshortening.

Landscape in the shape of plowed fields, undulating roads and tree-lined paths has much to offer in terms of natural patterns. Harbors and marinas are another great source of repetitive elements in the shapes of the yachts, the masts and the rig-

ging thrusting up into the sky, or ragged holes in the old rusty bucket abandoned on a jetty.

It is often the case that one does not see all of the pattern elements when actually taking the shot. In a photograph through an arch of arched stairways in a Jerusalem courtyard, I only noticed the complementary curve of the Hassid's back after

I printed the picture.

Also, it is important to include, if possible, variations or disruptions in the design, so that the composition does not become monotonous. Often it is quite possible to combine different repeating elements in one image, for example, horizontal rows of incandescent waves intersected by a long, black pier

to sea.

The use of patterns as a secondary or subsidiary element in a composition requires a quick eye or careful planning. Either way the photographer must be careful not to allow the background pattern to confuse or overwhelm the main subject.

Even in home snap photography it is worthwhile experiment-

ing with pattern. For instance, the next time you take a picture of the family group, try arranging the individuals in the shape of triangle or a diamond, rather than usual rows. Work with relative heights to achieve an ascending or descending line across the frame. Pattern can add to every picture, not only the ones you start at on gallery walls.

## Afghan Taleban issues guidelines for Ramadan fast

The purist Islamic Taleban issued guidelines last week for Afghans during Ramadan, the lunar month of fasting for Moslems, confining most women to their homes and banning public eating and entertainment. During this period, Moslems are not allowed to eat, drink or smoke in daylight hours.

The guidelines were prepared by the department for promoting good and suppressing vice. It has produced a seven-point document for the guidance of their fellow Afghans, according to Mullah Enayatullah Baligh, the department's deputy head.

"All hotels and eating places in

Kabul and throughout, Afghanistan should be closed during the day for the month of Ramadan," said the document. "Our esteemed sisters are asked not to venture out of their houses without a legal excuse. In case they have to leave their houses they should be veiled from the head to below the ankle," the document continued.

Baligh explained that there were a number of legal reasons for which a woman could leave the house. "They can leave their houses to buy food, or visit patients in the hospital, or go to a funeral for example, but they should not just wander around in the markets and parks.

"If a man sees a woman during Ramadan, he will be provoked," said Baligh as an explanation of the restrictions on women.

Musical entertainment or parties in hotels or private houses is also forbidden during Ramadan, the document said. Baligh explained that the aim of the clause was to encourage people to go to the mosque at night for "Taraveh," the Ramadan prayers, and the study of the Koran, which also takes place at night during Ramadan.

"All countrymen should attend the recitation of the Holy Koran and Taraveh prayers..." the guidelines said.

Baligh said that the 9 p.m. curfew the Taleban imposed on Kabul when they took the city in late September last year would be relaxed to allow people to go to the mosque.

"The curfew is not strictly enforced now: it is only there to curtail cases of robbery and looting, but there will be full freedom until 10:30 or 11 o'clock to allow people to go to Taraveh."

Baligh stressed the Taleban would not be conducting house-to-house searches to ensure people attended the mosque, and that the sick and those with other valid reasons would be excused.

"These are only guidelines. We won't

be forcing people out of their houses and into the mosque," he said.

The guidelines also urged those who have enough food to help their more needy neighbors.

It is a tradition, particularly during Ramadan, for the rich to help the poor, but it is one that gains particular poignancy in Afghanistan. After 17 years of war, many people are unable to afford sufficient food.

The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 57 percent of the population of Afghanistan are malnourished. The United Nations World Food Program estimates that half of Kabul's population receive food aid of

some sort. "Foreigners, travelers, and the sick [all groups who are exempted from fasting during Ramadan] cannot eat or drink in front of those who are keeping the fast," say the guidelines.

"It would be rude for you to eat in front of someone who is keeping the fast," Baligh told a non-Moslem Reuters correspondent.

"You can eat and smoke in your room, but if you do it in public, we will arrest you," he said. And the guidelines concluded: "Those who break the fast, or do not keep it at all will be punished according to Shariat [Islamic law]." (Reuters)

### HEADS 'N' TAILS

## Hunting cats, and their hunted

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

One reader wrote: "My cat catches a lot of mice in the garden but never eats them. She just brings them to me. Why does she hunt them if she doesn't want to eat them?" Another reader says that her cat never hunts although there are mice invading the house and asks if she should, as a neighbor suggested, feed the cat less so it will be hungry. And lastly, a reader wants to know if cats that are good mouse hunters can catch good mouse hunters can catch cats can be of use in catching snakes.

All of these questions relate to the hunting instinct in cats and, surprisingly, hunger has very little to do with whether a cat is or is not an efficient hunter.

Many healthy and very well-fed cats hunt assiduously while some cats, even in a semi-starved condition, fail to hunt at all. First of all it seems to be an established fact that the drive to hunt is a definite genetic factor, and although the exact gene has not yet been isolated, there is mounting evidence that it is a dominant gene that appears in a great majority of

felines. Of course if it is lacking in wild felines they would have no hope of survival and therefore there is no question of this condition being passed on. Therefore all wild felines possess it.

In addition to this inherited characteristic, there is also the effect of the environment, and a cat that is a good hunter not only gives her kittens the gene or genes for a hunting instinct but teaches them the tricks of the trade. I once had a calico female that used to bring her mice home and every evening there was a "mouse ulpan" in my study as the mother instructed her kittens.

The reason for the lack of this drive to hunt in some cats is not certain but it appears far more often in urban cats than in cats from more rural areas. Some who have studied the subject suggest that several decades of spreading poison for mice in cities where hunting cats catch the poisoned mice and are themselves killed by eating them has acted as a selection against feline hunters, leaving alive only the ones that do not hunt. This is, however, unproven.

As for catching rats, some cats can indeed hold their own even against large and rather vicious

rats but in most cases cats do not even try to catch adult rats. But this does not mean they have no value as rat controllers. Every rat starts its life as a young, small and inexperienced creature and these juvenile rats are easy prey for a hunting cat. Young rats are also not nearly as quick or as wary as mice.

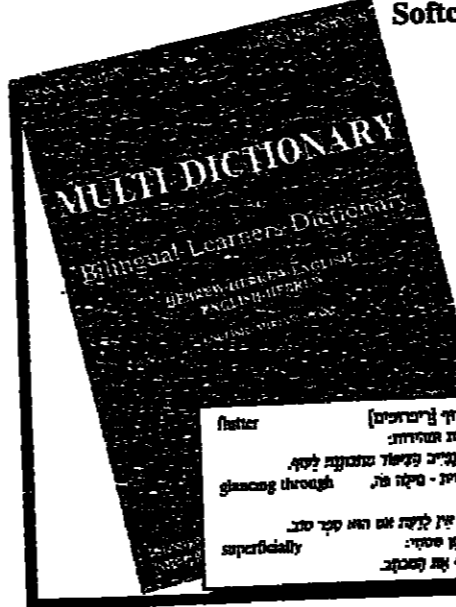
Some cats do hunt snakes but this is not too common and most of those I have observed were Siamese, and with a very strongly expressed hunting drive. But the value of cats in controlling snakes is in the fact that a good hunting cat reduces the mouse and rat population and the snakes, finding no livelihood around the place, seek better hunting grounds since these rodents are essential in their nutrition.

Many cats never eat their prey. But cats that do eat a bird if they catch it will often leave other prey uneaten. Shrews are a favorite prey for many cats and far more difficult to catch than mice, being much smaller and more agile. But a good hunting cat may very well catch everything it can from crickets and cockroaches to rats, lizards and even snakes.

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TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Second Look, IBA's veteran documentary and news show begins a new series today at 8:45 p.m. on Channel 1.

The first program is dedicated to the phenomenon of abuse in the IDF. As part of the show Yuvah Becher's film 'My Golani' will be shown.

After the film Ya'ari will interview IDF commanders about the phenomenon.

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

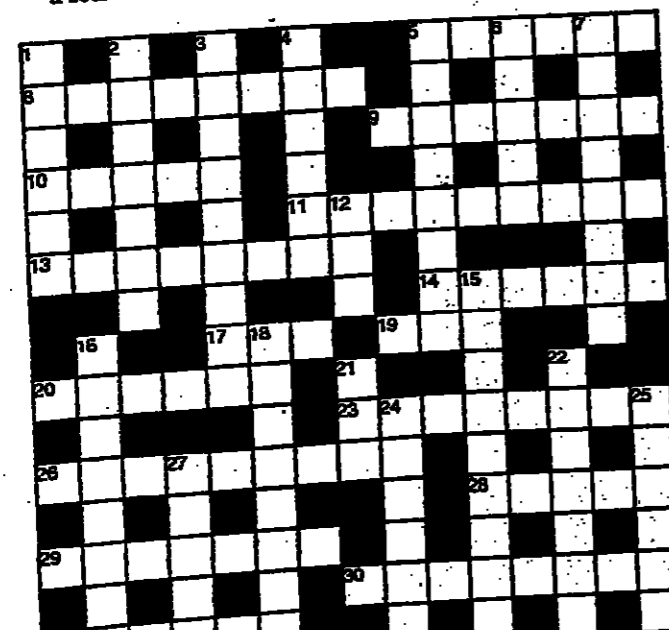
ACROSS

- 5 The new bosses' hamst (6)
8 Vivacious when well-supplied with alcohol? (8)
9 Tells of disquieted religious leaders (7)
10 Nobody's to be left out, even though exhausted (3,2)
11 "Quota", a French article showing good sense (9)
13 Got there possibly simultaneously (6)
14 A game of cards in the car tends to absorb children (6)
17 The villain's epitaph (3)
19 Notice love causes turmoil (6)
20 Sailors received about a thousand (6)
23 Even opposing a good man, a social worker (8)

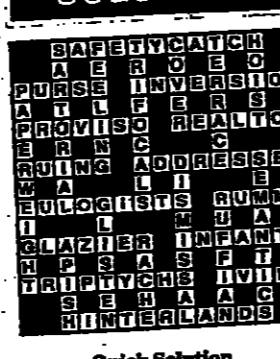
DOWN

- 1 Quiz a body of conservationists with some mistrust (6)
2 A man long incarcerated in an appalling little place (7)
3 Endorsement certain to encompass giant merger (9)
26 Drink with stout defender (9)
28 Gold turned over to a fellow citizen (5)
29 It may be imp to serve games-well (7)
30 The union will get everyone a nice settlement (8)
31 Exercises for bores (6)

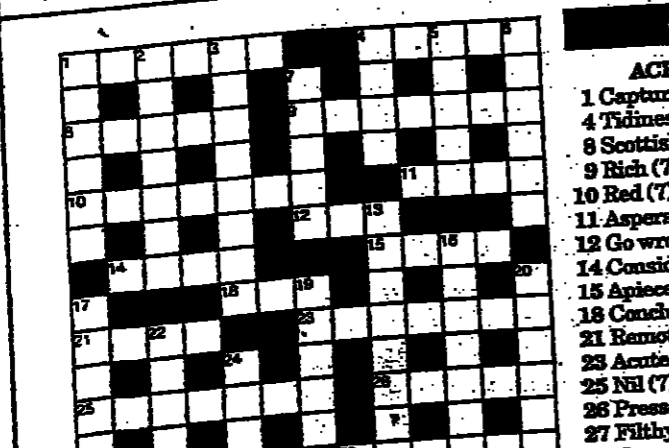
- 4 Holding catch to be returned to the river (6)
5 Inequitable? - Indeed, so - quite wrongly (9-5)
6 This country's made the health-resort popular (5)
7 Like a star taking a letter in say (8)
12 A member of a jolly group (3)
15 Forces cheat to make a real effort (9)
16 Strong individual (8)
18 Exters without permission and is turned out (8)
21 A civil engineer - a highly skilled person (3)
22 A growth industry (7)
24 Held in trust for a clever and very wise man (6)
25 Kind offer (6)
27 Leapt about - a bit of a bloomer (5)



SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Bawdy, 4 Isola, 12 General, 16 Get, 19 Ape, 23 Petaca, 18 Oct, 14 Ball, 16 Ape, 18 Pip, 20 Hamster, 21 Sham, 22 Thistle, 25 Neptune, 26 Salicy, 27 Storm.



QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Captured (6), 4 Tidiness (5), 8 Scottish island (5), 9 Rich (7), 10 Red (7), 11 Asperatin (4), 12 Go wrong (3), 14 Consider (4), 15 Aplies (4), 18 Conclusion (3), 21 Bannan (4), 23 Aunt (7), 25 NEI (7), 26 Finess (5), 27 Filthy (5), 28 Tempestuous (8)
DOWN: 1 Risky (6), 2 Elevate (7), 3 Good-looking (4), 4 Responsibility (4), 5 Live (5), 6 Riposte (6), 7 Endured (5), 13 Circumscribe (8), 16 Frankness (7), 17 Cautious (6), 19 Wilder dog (5), 20 Swindler (6), 22 Change (6), 24 Wee (4)

TV schedule table with columns for Channel, Time, and Program Name. Includes Channel 1, Educational TV, Channel 2, ETV 2, Channel 3, and Discovery 8.

PRIME TIME TV schedule table with columns for Time, Program Name, and Channel. Shows programs like News flash, Local broadcast, and Sassoover 007 and a Half.

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:06 Morning Concert
9:05 Telemann: Suite in A for violin and strings...

EUROSPORT

8:30 Dakar 1997 Rally (pt)
16:00 Equestrian - World Cup, Switzerland - live

PRIME SPORTS

2:00 Tennis: Australian Open, day 7 - live

CABLE

8:00 Sisters (pt)
9:00 One Life to Live (pt)
9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt)
11:20 Perla Negra
12:10 Neighbors (pt)

MOVIES

Breaking the Waves 6:45, 9:30
Stealing Beauty 7:15, 9:30
The Glimmer Man 7:15, 9:30
CINEMA CAFE 11:30

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL 1-4 Daylight @Transporting
G.G. GIL 1-4 Daylight @Transporting
PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL Daylight 5, 7:30, 9:30

Buy Blue & White and keep Israel in the Pink. General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.

NEWS in brief

Kahalani's missing mother found

Sara Kahalani, the mother of Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, was found Friday near the Ness Ziona country club, after disappearing from her old age home for about 24 hours.

Three held for jewelry theft

Three men were remanded for eight days on Friday afternoon by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after being apprehended while fleeing the scene of a robbery in which \$100,000 in jewelry was stolen out of a jeweler's car.

Police told the court that the three, Doron Ben-Gigi, 27, of Beit Dagan, Gil Giladi, 31, of Beit Dagan, and Yehoshua Asor, 28, of Ramat Gan, had been planning the crime for six months and are also suspected of a string of other crimes and break-ins.

The three were wounded when police struggled to arrest them as they were about to flee in a stolen car.

Man threatens to blow up himself, neighbors

A Tiberias man who barricaded himself in his apartment on Friday night and threatened to blow himself and his neighbors up with a gas canister was subdued by police, who broke into the apartment after negotiations with mental health experts failed.

Large forces of police and a special team had arrived at the scene to deal with a possible emergency. Police eventually burst into the apartment, catching the man off guard and apprehending him. The man was sent for psychiatric observation.

Swiss give Poland list of wartime accounts

ZURICH (Reuters) - Switzerland gave Poland the names of 53 Poles on Friday, including several Holocaust victims, whose Swiss bank accounts were declared ownerless after World War II and handed over to Warsaw, the foreign ministry said.

The once-secret list of names and account details, compiled by Federal Archives officials from records kept during a 1960s sweep of Swiss banks for lost Holocaust assets, aims to help the original owners' heirs get what is rightfully theirs.

"The Polish authorities have committed themselves to make the list public as soon as possible in order to locate those entitled to restitution," a ministry statement in Berne said. A ministry spokesman declined to reveal their identities, but added: "Most are probably Holocaust victims because they have Jewish names."

In Geneva, a prominent Swiss Jewish banker helping probe allegations that banks are hoarding Nazi victims' unclaimed wealth said he expected hardly any money to be uncovered.

But Hans Baer, honorary chairman of Julius Baer Holding AG, said the country and its banks had to go through the audit so as to emerge with a "certificate of clean health."

Baer serves on an independent panel headed by former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker to check allegations by the World Jewish Congress and

other groups that Swiss banks are still hiding funds Jews stashed here to escape Hitler.

Berne has curtailed banking secrecy to let the panel, which includes representatives of Jewish groups and Swiss banks, review inactive accounts opened before and during World War II. "From an auditing point of view, we can only hope and pray nothing will be found. My suspicion is nothing - plus or minus - will be found because the exercise was done in 1962 and last year," Baer told the American International Club in Geneva. "But that is not the point. The search is to get a certificate of clean health. It has to be done," he added.

In London, the British government admitted on Friday that it had wrongly accused Switzerland of turning over to Allied powers little more than a tenth of the Nazi gold it agreed was in Swiss bank vaults at the end of World War II.

The admission by the Foreign Office of an error in a report it published last September was immediately welcomed by the Swiss Foreign Ministry, who praised its "intellectual honesty."

A revised edition published by the Foreign Office on Friday corrected the figure to SF7500m - a major difference since in 1946, the dollar was worth SF4.3.

Israel optimistic over Polish army contracts

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense officials are hopeful that a delayed, early Friday morning meeting between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his Polish counterpart in Jerusalem paved the way for lucrative Polish military contracts.

Mordechai met with visiting Polish Defense Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski prior to heading to Hebron to supervise the first day of IDF redeployment there. The meeting was to have taken place the day before, but Mordechai canceled it to be in the Knesset for the debate on the Hebron withdrawal. It was rescheduled only after Dobrzanski, who was accompanying Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, subsequently

complained that Israeli politicians were ignoring him.

"Mordechai apologized and explained to him why he couldn't meet earlier, and he accepted that," said Kuti Mor, responsible for foreign relations at the Defense Ministry who accompanied Mordechai to the working breakfast. "The meeting ended with very strong optimism on both sides."

Dobrzanski told Mordechai he had visited Elbit and Elbit and was very impressed with the upgrading they had to offer and that Israel had a good chance of winning a contract to modernize Polish equipment, Mor said. Dobrzanski also invited Mordechai to visit Poland, which is seeking membership to

NATO, is interested in modernizing its military, but Dobrzanski admitted his country was facing difficult challenges due to its shortage of funds. Israeli officials said it was suggested that Israel and Poland work together to upgrade Polish equipment and include a third country to help cover costs.

"They spoke of business and Dobrzanski expressed optimism that even though matters are not closed, Israel was seriously being considered in any upgrades," Mor said. "But we are up against stiff competition."

A consortium of Israeli companies - Elbit, Elbit and Rafael - is bidding to upgrade the Polish Huzar helicopter, but is competing against the US company Rockwell International Corp.

WEATHER forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Table with locations: Haifa 6-17, Tiberias 7-18, Afula 5-18, Samaria 4-12, Tel Aviv 7-17, Jerusalem 5-11, Beer Sheva 5-19, Dead Sea 10-18, Eilat 7-21, Golan 2-10.



Reaching out Labor leader Shimon Peres joins members of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach to sing 'Reach Out and Touch Someone,' during his visit to West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday.

WJC vs. Swiss: Knockout or self-destruction

By MARILYN HENRY

Watching Switzerland and the World Jewish Congress duke it out in the past year over dormant bank accounts was kind of like watching a match to see if the fatal blow ultimately comes from the opponent or is self-inflicted.

The two sides haven't knocked themselves out yet, but they have come pretty close.

The Swiss have made some moves that seem so inept, you have to wonder: Are these really the people who produce world-renowned precision watches?

The WJC, for its part, suffers from premature articulation. Their first shot in the Swiss war was a dud. Last March, the WJC uncovered the treasure trove of US intelligence files about Swiss-Nazi activities known as "Safehaven."

The first document it released, intended to illustrate how nefarious the banks were, was one sheet that referred to the accounts held by Societe Generale de Surveillance. It turns

out that this Swiss firm was owned by a Latvian-born Jew who helped Jews during the Nazi era, and apparently was a financial backer of the WJC.

They've chosen their targets more carefully since then, with hundreds of intriguing documents that seem to tar the Swiss. But the Swiss need not depend on a barrage from the WJC: They can self-destruct.

Union Bank, for example, stands accused of shredding documents, which would be illegal if the documents are related to Holocaust-era accounts. Union says these are unrelated. True or not, the Swiss once again have shown they have an unerring lack of sense by failing to realize this is not the time to destroy any documents when you are being assailed for refusing to open your records.

At year's end, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, finishing his one-year rotation as Swiss president, said that a demand for a \$250 million fund to compensate Jews who lost assets in the Holocaust "amounts to being

blackmailed and held to ransom," Delamuraz, now Switzerland's economics minister, later apologized - but not before we heard the "B" word.

Not "blackmail." "Boycott." The World Jewish Congress already seemed to have at least a semi-annual boycott threat. The first came last March 11, when WJC President Edgar Bronfman told Reuters that the WJC executive committee was considering calling for a boycott of Swiss banks to protest the lack of progress in negotiations over the dormant assets.

The second came December 13, when the WJC told Reuters it was delaying until January a decision about whether to urge an international boycott of Swiss banks because of their treatment of Holocaust victims.

This announcement was all the more bizarre because it came two days after the quintessential independent arbiter, Paul Volcker, told a House Banking hearing that things in *L'affaire Suisse* were moving along and that everyone was getting along

AROUND THE WORLD table with columns for City, Low, High, and Weather. Includes cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, etc.

220,000 pray on Mount

Ramadan prayers on the Temple Mount were attended by 220,000 worshippers on Friday. Many of those who arrived were Palestinians from the territories who did not have entry permits.

Some 2,000 policemen were on duty to secure the entrances to Jerusalem and the Western Wall Plaza. Police sources attributed the large turnout to the fact that the previous week Palestinians without entry permits managed to attend prayers with relative ease, as part of a policy to avoid confrontation, leading many others to try to attend this week.

(Tim)

Former informer sues GSS for NIS 3m.

A former General Security Service informer is suing the GSS for NIS 3 million for extraordinary and unprecedented damages. The former Gaza resident and his family were evacuated to Israeli-controlled land after the Oslo accords were implemented and the Palestinians were given power in the Gaza Strip.

The 48-year-old man says that he worked with the GSS for almost 20 years, greatly contributing to the state's security and endangering himself and his family. As a result, when the Palestinian Authority gained power in the Gaza Strip, he was forced to abandon NIS 1.5m. worth of property there.

He is claiming an additional NIS 1.5m. for mental anguish caused by the move and for future lost income because of his difficulty in finding a job in Israel.

His GSS contacts promised him that if he and his family ever were forced to leave Gaza the GSS would provide for them, he said. However, he and his family are now living in a wretched apartment the GSS rented for them and surviving on a monthly stipend of NIS 800, he complained.

In addition, the GSS confiscated his personal weapon and denied his request to move his sons from Gaza, despite threats to their security, he charged.

The State Attorney's Office has not yet responded to the suit, which was filed in the Haifa District Court. The man's lawyer requested that the court rule on the case anyway. Haifa District Court Judge Oded Gershon asked the district attorney to rule on the request.

(Tim)

THE ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Concert program for 19.1.97-21.1.97. Semyon Bychkov, conductor. Lynn Harrell, cello.

Festa Italiana advertisement for Europa Galante and Concerto Italiano. Includes program details, CD list, and a music club subscription form.

Advertisement for 'The Fighting's Face' and 'Arafat' featuring a portrait of Yasser Arafat.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.